

Q. All that is quite correct, Mr. Bickerton. I agree with you. I think if you had occasion to examine the situation which obtains with respect to the three maritime provinces, you would find that they have a set of grievances just as painful as our own.—A. I agree with you.

Q. And while we do not wish to be sectional—I have no desire at all to be sectional, and I have endeavoured in parliament not to be sectional, because after all we want this Canada to be united—yet I think we must grant that there is a very strong tendency for policy in Canada to be dictated by the will of the two great central provinces which are able to outvote all the rest of us many times over.

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: I wonder if Mr. Blackmore would allow me to ask a question?

Mr. BLACKMORE: I will allow you to ask a question, but I want to make this statement first.

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: Very well.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Here is the question I think we in the west should be careful about. I am speaking now purely as a westerner to westerners, in the presence of these our friends from the east, from the two central provinces—and they are our friends. The thing I think we need to be very careful about is that we do not get any more of our essential economic national concerns tied up with Ottawa than we can help; and I believe that government ownership of the banking system in the Dominion of Canada would definitely centralize complete control over banking policy in Ottawa.

Mr. TUCKER: Hear, hear!

Mr. BLACKMORE: Therefore it would be under the domination, the direction and overwhelming influence of the two central provinces of Canada; and although they may be just as fair-minded as you may wish, their self interest would in many cases out-weigh their desire for complete equity. Or shall I put it this way: their self interest would make it very difficult for them to appreciate the validity of our pleas; and I speak now as a member who has tried those pleas for eight years on central ears. I think that is a very serious matter. Mr. Noseworthy wishes to ask a question. I am going to give way to him so that he may do so. But just before he asks his question, I want to tell you that the next thing I am going to suggest that we consider is the tariff structure of this country, which is unquestionably directly under the control of a group of men who are undoubtedly controlled by Ontario and Quebec and are centralized right here in Ottawa. I think the results will be worth examining.

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: I want to ask Mr. Blackmore a question.

The WITNESS: Just a minute. I should like to mention a word to Mr. Blackmore before leaving that. I think, Mr. Blackmore, that you and I can agree with the idea that, if there is any one thing that we want to aim for in this Dominion of Canada, it is a real understandable unification of our various provinces. I think you know what I mean.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Yes.

The WITNESS: We as provinces possibly, unfortunately, have not understood each other as well as we should understand each other. You mention what would happen if we centralize the operation of the money medium.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Centralize control.

The WITNESS: Centralize money control in one particular place.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Ottawa, particularly.

The WITNESS: Yes, Ottawa; it might not do that. Well, we have not tried it.